

## The 1991 face of unemployment

### \$6 million in training aims to help victims of the continuing recession

Sarah Karunaratna has been out of work for a year. In that time, the 46-year-old Don Mills man has done all he can to maintain his family's standard of living.

He has taken out a second mortgage on his house, rented two rooms to boarders, and tried to cut down on expenses. But with his second child due to arrive in December, Karunaratna is running out of time, ideas and money.



Sarah Karunaratna

"I don't know what my future is going to be," he says. "Unless I find a job with steady pay, I'll be in big trouble when my wife goes on maternity leave."

Bright and articulate, Karunaratna doesn't fit anyone's stereotype of the long-term unemployed. He has operated a business in his native Sri Lanka and, until last summer, was a supervisor at Remanco Systems Inc., a manufacturer of computerized cash registers. But when Remanco packed up and moved to the United States last summer (where it has since gone bankrupt) Karunaratna became another unemployment statistic.



Jane McFadzean

He is one of as many as 1,500  
Continued on page 2



Photo: Neil McCullery

**STRIKE! YOU'RE OUT! (ON THE ROAD)** -First-year Accounting student Ali Jafari locks his bike to a parking meter at St. James Campus during the TTC strike. Hundreds of students and staff opted for two-wheeled (or two-footed) transport when the city's transit system ground to a halt on Sept. 12. Hundreds also formed car pools with colleagues, classmates or neighbours, or braved downtown traffic in their own cars. George Brown expanded parking and organized a ride registry and shuttle service to help out during the week-long strike.

## Kensington gets evening safety patrols

Starting in October, evening students at Kensington will find some comforting new faces on campus – the campus safety patrollers.

The two patrollers will walk the halls of the three-building campus Monday to Thursday from 6 to 10 p.m., helping students find their way, solving problems and reporting any hazards to people or property.

Identified by Campus Safety Patrol jackets, they'll carry cellular phones for calling emergency services.

A pilot project of George Brown's Women's Safety Committee and the

Continuing Education Division, the patrol program is modelled after several safety programs at other colleges and universities.

The patrollers will be trained in first aid, emergency procedures, and methods of handling incidents of sexual, racial or ethnic harassment.

If the campus patrols prove successful in increasing students' perceptions of safety, they could be introduced at George Brown's three other campuses in the future, according to Continuing Education Chairperson Marilyn Rinaldo.

# New programs will help 1,500

Continued from page 1.

unemployed people being helped in the next few months by five new federal-government-sponsored programs at George Brown — with funding of more than \$6 million — that aim to give the unemployed help finding a job or a new career direction.

Like Karunarathna, many students in the programs have job skills and experience, but they have been laid off, their companies have gone bankrupt, or they have decided to change careers — at the wrong time.

"These are the employable unemployed," says Access Division Chairperson Barbara Taylor, who has been given the job of running the programs. "In many cases they have extended work histories and solid work histories."

A large number of people referred to George Brown for the training programs are out of work because the job prospects in their fields are poor, Taylor says.

"Our focus is moving them into fields where jobs are available."

Beyond the long-term benefit of training people for new careers, the programs have the immediate effect of limiting demand on provincial welfare systems.

"The college is filling a tremendous social need," says Taylor. "Right now, there are huge numbers of people on Unemployment Insurance who are going to exhaust their claims and end up with no alternative but welfare."

Each student in the programs has his or her own story. Jane McFadzean has an MBA and has worked in the marketing field for 15 years as a product and market manager. She quit her job last summer but expected that, with her experience and education, she would not have much difficulty finding work.

"I didn't really think I'd end up in this situation," says McFadzean, 42. "The economy sure isn't helping, but either the type of job I'm looking for has been cut back or they're hiring from within."

Karunarathna and McFadzean are students in **Planning for Employment**, a career exploration and job-search program for Unemployment Insurance (UI) "exhaustees" — people reaching the end of their benefits claim period.

"A lot of people look at this course as an opportunity," McFadzean says.

"...we've been learning where our skills, interests, and aptitudes are."

The first Planning for Employment class started Aug. 6, and 352 people will go through the program by Dec. 15. Students get vocational assessment and counselling, and then the college's placement consultant will help to find them a job.

The other four programs in the newly established Employment and Training Services for the Unemployed Department of the Access Division are:

**Access Through Training** - This program will allow about 400 unemployed people to take approved training courses at a wide variety of educational institutions, including George Brown. A student's UI benefits may be extended up to two years while he or she trains for a new career. At George Brown, students may be placed in 27 courses, such as Welder-Fitter, Accounting, Masonry, Offset Printing, Carpentry, Technical Drafting, or Micro-CADD. Access Through Training staff will find work placements for students and help them find jobs.

**Training Connections** - A project for UI recipients who require skills training before employment. The program includes a five-day career exploration workshop and training or upgrading at any recognized educational institution, community-based or private training organization in Metro Toronto.

**Job-Finding Clubs** - There are two clubs: one for UI clients from the Toronto South Canada Employment Centre and one for the Toronto Centre Canada Employment Centre. The club is an intensive, three-week job-search and job-maintenance workshop for UI clients following the format of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission's (CEIC) national, standardized Job-Finding Club model.

Half of the 27 staff members who work in the five programs, which are housed in leased space at 260 King St. E., have been seconded from other positions at George Brown. While program funding may end next summer, there is chance it will be renewed, according to CEIC officials in Ottawa.

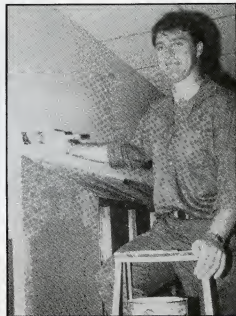


Photo: Neil McGillivray

**1 DARTNELL GETS BRUSH UP** - Jack Davies gives a wall in 1 Dartnell a touch-up to get it in shape for classes in September. The Casa Loma building was closed for part of July and August to allow contractors to remove asbestos from its second floor. All asbestos below the level of the ceiling tiles was removed this summer, and the remaining asbestos will be removed next summer. Air quality tests taken before and after the work have met the college's stringent standards for staff and student safety, and at no time has the asbestos posed a risk to health.

## United Way aims for student involvement

George Brown United Way organizers are setting their sights at increasing participation in the charitable fundraising campaign this year — and students are their particular target.

"Even if every full-time student donated a dollar, our total college contribution to the United Way would increase by 20 per cent," says George Brown Controller Kathy Cestnick, who is chairing the campaign along with Continuing Education and Marketing Dean Danny Cushing.

Several students, including executives of student councils and the Marketing Club have been asked to sit on the United Way committee that is organizing this fall's campaign. The dates for George Brown's two-week campaign have yet to be decided.

Last year staff and students raised almost \$25,000 for the United Way of Greater Toronto.

# Patricia Groves is new academic VP

It will be a homecoming — of sorts — when George Brown's new academic vice-president starts work here in October.

Patricia Groves grew up in Woodbridge, north of Toronto, and was a student at both York and the University of Toronto.

Since the mid-1960s she has made Vancouver her home, where she pursued a career as a college teacher and administrator and continued her academic work in sociology.

Leaving her job as a vice-principal of Vancouver Community College would be easier if it weren't for the people.

"I'm finding it very hard to leave the people here," she says.

Her first reaction to George Brown, gleaned on a house-hunting visit in September, is also positive.

"It's very warm," she says. "(George Brown) people are very expressive and welcoming."

Vancouver Community College, which she joined in 1987 after 17 years at Capilano College, is similar to George Brown in many ways. It is a large, multi-campus operation in central Vancouver serving a multicultural population.

Groves replaces Garth Jackson, who is now President of Canadore College in North Bay. The position has been filled in the interim by Access and External Relations Vice-President Bob Struthers.



New academic vice-president Patricia Groves has a doctorate in sociology from the University of British Columbia. She continues to work in her field with papers and research projects, particularly in the area of media and popular culture.



Photo: Neil McCollivray

**WELCOMING SMILE** - Graphic Design student Terry Blackwood (left) gets some directions and a welcoming smile from Accounting teacher Margaret Drozd on the first day of classes in September. Staff and students at all campuses volunteered to help new, lost and bewildered students find their way around in an orientation sponsored by the Student Success Network and student councils.

## Events

**Oct. 4** - Staff development seminar: *Introduction to American Sign Language*, a series of classes from noon - 2 p.m., beginning today and on Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, Dec. 6, 13, 20. Casa Loma Campus, 160 Kendal Ave., Room C-318. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4471.

**Oct. 8** - Board of Governors meeting, 5 p.m., Boardroom, 500 MacPherson. All welcome. For information call 944-4473.

- Staff development seminar: *WHMIS training sessions*. The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires all employees in the province to attend a session on workplace hazardous materials. Today at St. James, 200 King St. E., Room 185, 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. The same seminar will be offered at Casa Loma Campus on Oct. 10 or Nov. 17, 160 Kendal, auditorium, from 8:45 a.m. - noon, and at Kensington Cam-

pus, Room 3106, Nov. 7, 8:45 a.m. - noon. For information call 944-4661.

**Oct. 16** - Staff development seminar: *Stress Management and Personal Empowerment*, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., 500 MacPherson boardroom. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4661.

**Oct. 30** - Men's basketball. Centennial College versus George Brown. St. James gym, 7 p.m. All welcome. For information call Athletics at 867-2176.

**Nov. 8** - George Brown staff members are eligible to enter a Master of Arts in Education program with a community college focus offered by the University of Central Michigan. Classes are held on Friday evenings and Saturdays. The first class starts today and continues on Nov. 9, 22, 23, and Dec. 6 and 7 at Humber College. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4659.



# Names in the News

The Human Resources Department reports the following staff changes:

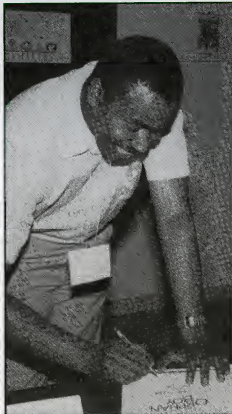
New support staff include: Don Bevan in Plant Operations at Kensington; Greg Dawe and Charlabo Mitropoulos in Caretaking at St. James; Edward Fontaine in the St. James Registrar's Office; Jan Koskie in Services for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing at St. James; Kimberly Kush in the President's Office at 500 MacPherson; Maria Lee and Ernest Reid in Integrated Business Systems at 146 Kendal; Rowena Palacol in Students Services at St. James; Tony Reddick in Caretaking at 160 Kendal; Christine Teal in the School of Business at St. James; and Gwendolyn Tolbart in the TACET-sponsored Microcomputer program at St. James.

Administrative staff transfers include: David Copsey, who moves from Physical Resources at 146 Kendal to become campus manager at St. James; Electronics Chairperson Toivo Teng moves with the department from St. James to 160 Kendal; and Henry Whalen in Services for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing moves from St. James to 146 Kendal, becoming George Brown's first deaf administrator.

Faculty transfers include the following Electronics faculty who have moved as a department from St. James to Casa Loma: Ed Badovinac, Ian Cameron, John Cook, Darrell Couchie, Paul Dagaini, Peter Dushko, Don Faichney, Gene Gogol, Fred Hoefner, Keith Labelle, Jack Lumley, Ken Patrick, Kevin Pereira, Merle Reist, Leo Salemi, Roger Sarker, Robert Schultz, Ronald Sorensen, and Mario Ular.

Other faculty transfers include: Lois Athanasius, who moves from Job Start at 1 Dartnell to Counselling at 160 Kendal; Franky Chernin in Career Counselling and Access moves from 1 Dartnell to St. James; Joan McKay moves from Futures program staff at 258 Adelaide to the College Vocational Program at 200 King St. E.

Support staff transfers include: Electronics Department staff Andy Buhel,



Ed Smith, and Helen Tappin who have moved from St. James to 160 Kendal; Phyllis Carey moves from the Test Centre at 1 Dartnell to the Futures program at St. James; Sharon Dobson in Services for the Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing moves from 146 Kendal to St. James; Karen Krugel moves from Student Services at St. James to Hospitality at 300 Adelaide St. E. where she is Public Relations Co-ordinator; Lisa Michaels moves from the Liaison Office to become Continuing Publications Co-ordinator in the Communications Department at 258 Adelaide St. E.; Anita Madrus and Cindy Nevins of the Registrar's Office move from St. James to 500 MacPherson; Leeta Narine moves from Client Services at 258 Adelaide St. E. to the Finance Department at 500 MacPherson; Lidia Pirraglia moves from Client Services at 258 Adelaide St. E. to Ontario Skills Development Office at 184 Front St. E.; Joyce Tait moves from Job Start at 160 Kendal to the Ontario Skills Development Office at 184 Front St. E., and Yasmin Walli moves from Futures program staff to the Communications Department at 258 Adelaide St. E.

Name changes include: Janice Gash in Health Sciences is now Janice Henty; Dianne Parsons in the President's Office is now Dianne Bennett; Roberta Weaver in the School of Technology and Science is now Roberta Oullahan; Margaret Wandersleben in English and Liberal Studies is now Margaret McCollum, and Valeria Toth in Computer-Aided Engineering is now Valeria Varga.

Retiring from the college are: Ivor Betteridge, Ann Black, Jack Bradbury, Olga Celliers, William Christie, Peter Codd, George Davis, Gerald Faul, Clifford Holland, Irene Kemenczy, Irene Krugly-Smolka, Jean McLaren, Bert Michnick, Vitali Romaniuk, Neilton Seale, Alexander Thomson, and Teofil Yakubik. Leaving the college are: Gary Carvery, Tania Das Gupta, Daniel Devitta, Wendy Jones, Anne Judge, John Paulino, Beth Popple, Jacqueline Salmona, Randy Waldie, and William Walker.

**STORY MAKERS** — Children's writer Tololwa Molle autographs a copy of his book *The Orphan Boy* at the third annual George-Brown-sponsored children's writers' conference — Storymakers — held in August. Molle, who was nominated for a Governor General's Award this year, spoke about cross-cultural communication in children's books as part of the three-day conference at St. James. The conference, which drew 100 people from as far away as Lethbridge and Fredericton, was organized by the English and Liberal Studies Department at St. James. The conference allowed both working professionals and would-bes to discuss writing, editing and illustrating books for children. The keynote speaker, Toronto writer Claire MacKay, advised participants not to "write down" to children in their work.

Photo: Mary Ann Horgan

## City College News

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